

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM MANILA DTG 040903Z

SEP 75 RPTD TO YOU.

QUOTE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 12420

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SREF, VN, MY

SUBJECT: MALAYSIA-77 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ON SHIP AT LABUAN, SABAH

REF: A) MANILA 12368; B) KUALA LUMPUR 5200

FOR WATCH OFFICER

1. REF B INDICATES PRESENCE OF VESSEL IN WATERS OFF LABUAN ISLAND OFF NW COAST OF SABAH. VESSELL HAS 77 REFUGEES WHO PLAN TO SET SAIL FOR SUBIC BAY IN HOPES OF OBTAINING TEMPORARY ASYLUM IN PHILIPPINES. AND EVENTUAL MOVEMENT TO UNITED STATES UNDER PAROLEE PROGRAM. VESSEL SCHEDULED TO DEPART FROM LABUAN FIRST LIGHT ON 5 SEPTEMBER LOCAL TIME. ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL DEPARTURE BE DELAYED TO PERMIT EXPLORATION OTHER COURSES OF ACTION.

2. BILL SMITH, U.S. CITIZEN EMPLOYEE OF BROWN AND ROOT, VISITED

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EMBASSY 4 SEPT AND REPRESENTED GROUP, SAYS BROWN AND ROOT HAVE

LARGE OPERATION ON LABUAN ISLAND AND IN 24 HOUR TELE CONTACT WITH HOUSTON HOME OFFICE LOCATED 4100 CLINTON DRIVE, HOUSTON, TEXAS. TELEPHONE 676-3011, AREA CODE 713. EMBASSY REQUESTS WATCH OFFICER TO REQUEST BROWN AND ROOT OFFICE IN HOUSTON TO RELAY FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO LABUAN BY TELEX. QUOTE BILL SMITH OF YOUR OFFICE VISITED UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN MANILA AND DISCUSSED FLIGHT OF 77 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED IN LABUAN WATERS ABOARD BARGE-TANKER HONG MINH. SMITH WAS INFORMED THAT CONCEPT OF SENDING REFUGEES TO SUBIC BAY IN PHILIPPINES WAS ILL-ADVISED AS US NAVY REFUGEE OPERATION TERMINATED AND PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL REFUSE TO PERMIT THEM TO LAND. EMBASSY ALSO APPREHENSIVE ABOUT SAFETY OF VESSEL IN TRYING TO MAKE VOYAGE FROM LABUAN TO SUBIC WITH HAND COMPASS DURING A HEIGHT OF TYPHOON SEASON. EMBASSY ENDEAVORING TO COMMUNICATE WITH SAMPATKUMAR, REPRESENTATIVE OF UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, WHO IS NOW IN KUALA LUMPUR. HIS ROLE WILL BE TO ASSIST REFUGEES IN FINDING ASYLUM. SOME REFUGEES APPEAR TO MEET CRITERIA FOR MOVEMENT TO UNITED STATES ON INDIVIDUAL BASIS. EMBASSY IS CHECKING THIS OUT WITH WASHINGTON. IF SUCH MOVEMENT POSSIBLE, PROCESSING COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED AT LABUAN MORE EASILY THAN AT SUBIC BAY. BROWN AND ROOT REPRESENTATIVE ON LABUAN IS REQUESTED TO EXERT WHATEVER PRESSURE HE CAN TO PERSUADE REFUGEES TO DELAY THEIR DEPARTURE FROM LABUAN TO GAIN TIME DURING WHICH ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS CAN BE EXPLORED. VESSEL SCHEDULED TO DEPART AT FIRST LIGHT ON 5 SEPTEMBER. YOUR COOPERATION GREATLY APPRECIATED. UNQUOTE. SULLIVAN UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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